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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USER

SUBJECT Reported MVD Action Against Armed Bands in Frontier Areas of the Kirghiz SSR/ Komsomol. Propaganda Among Local Kirghiz

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1. "Special units of the MVD conducted large-scale roundups in March 1953 in the 'pre-frontier' regions of Tolmak and Issyk-kul in the Kirghiz SSR, to fight armed bands operating in those areas. The bands consisted of former prison-workers who had fled from the Kizyl-Kiya coal mines and of members of the local highlander tribe, the Dungans, who live in the frontier area.
2. "The MVD detachments in the area have been considerably reinforced since the middle of March. The garrison of Tolmak now consists of 220 cavalrymen of the MVD.
3. "The organized roundups have failed to liquidate the bands, because the local Kirghiz population collaborates with them and helps them in various ways. Although the bands rob the people of food and cattle, the people gain advantages from the unsettled situation in the areas. They steal foodstuffs from the kolkhozes, slaughter the kolkhoz cattle and put the blame on the bands.
4. "To counteract this sympathetic attitude of the local people towards the armed bands, special teams of the Komsomol organization have been sent out since April 1953 to tour the mountainous regions and conduct propaganda among the local Kirghiz population. The teams are well selected and composed only of Kirghiz nationals. The talks are conducted in the native Kirghiz language. The main theme of the talks is to remind the people that in the years 1920-25 it was the Russian troops who saved the Kirghiz people from slaughter by the Kazakh tribes and from subjugation to the Kazakhs."

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